

SUFC Urban Forestry Working Group Call Monday, April 22, 2013

First – please indicate your availability for the next call if you have not done so at:
<http://www.doodle.com/rssy6v2k83y4qw4d>

Participating: Melinda Householder & Peter Hutchins/Am Forests, Gerry Gray, Scott Maco/Davey, Faith Campbell/TNC, Alec Griffin & Ann Gosline/Clean Air Task Force, Michael Leff/FS & Davey, Beth Larry/FS, Jake Donnay/NASF, Rich Dolesh/Nat'l Parks & Rec, Jen Hinrichs/SUFC

Summary:

- SUFC has formalized the Urban Forestry Research Working Group (Research WG). Scott Maco has agreed to serve as the first chair and will liaison with the SUFC Steering Committee throughout the year.
- Scott provided a debrief of the recent iTree meeting in Atlanta, noting several themes were reoccurring including:
 - Improving communication with individual states @ iTree tools/progress and coordinating better with organizations like NASF.
 - Growing community of academia that is introducing iTree to their students
 - Disaster Assessment: the need for protocols, putting strike teams in place etc. (not new) but room for improvements
 - Urban tree inventory and assessment (already one of Research WG's top 10 priorities), esp. monitoring change over time
 - Climate change – “urban forest resilience model”
 - SUFC does and can continue to serve as a vital communication link between iTree user groups (room for expansion)
- WG members pointed out the on-going (and mostly untapped) opportunity for the policy connection with iTree as a “**consensus tool**”.
- Beth Larry shared that the National Academies of Science should be publishing their report within the next month. The WS was over capacity (on site) and approx. 50 tuned in to the live webcast offerings.
- The link to various presentations/sessions of the WS are available on uTube @:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0pBUREzqGw&playnext=1&list=PLX3uqejZM MCZoTUZPILvnjya58EQjU6Yb&feature=results_main UF research is so very hip!
- It was noted that the topics and discussion at the NAS workshop tracked parallel to the work and conversation of the SUFC Research WG.

- See attached FS Urban Research overview or at <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/docs/urban/urban-research-areas.pdf> (snapshot of FS research areas)
- *Question posed to WG:* “IF UF research priorities are not consistent across the country, how can we (SUFC+) increasingly connect these “hot spots” of UF research connection points?”
- Observation: FS has a “publish or perish” culture for many scientific fields and science delivery is not a high priority. However, social scientists are receptive to sharing, connecting etc. to advance discipline. Fortunately, UF research has a strong grassroots community who can address issues from the ground up (many researchers interested in what is happening on the ground/community).
- SUFC needs to prioritize research issues, focus on top X priorities.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Respond to next meeting date via poll above
2. **WG members to review 10 UF research areas (see attachment) and make notes re: SUFC prioritization for next meeting**
3. Beth and Jen are re-committing to get FS research team leadership meeting with SUFC back on the calendar
4. Jen to set up meeting with Michael Rains from NE Research Station (looking at late May) for meeting with SUFC membership (discuss SUFC priorities, as decided by WG, and brainstorm on effective tactics, networks etc.)